

Lieutenant Colonel John Stephens **Senior Judge, Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals**

Lieutenant Colonel John Stephens received his B.A. with Honors from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington in 1998 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. From 1998 until 2004, he served with Third Battalion, Second Marine Regiment; 6th Marine Regiment; and Marine Barracks Washington.



Lieutenant Colonel Stephens left active duty, working full-time in the defense industry while attending Catholic University's Columbus School of Law in the evening. At Catholic, he was the Executive Editor of the Journal of Law, Philosophy, and Culture and worked at a U.S. Attorneys' Office. After graduating, Lieutenant Colonel Stephens clerked at the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and then entered private practice in general litigation with the firm of Lawson & Silek in his hometown of Winchester, Virginia.

In 2010, Lieutenant Colonel Stephens returned to active duty. Since then he has served as Senior Defense Counsel at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point, NC; Regional Defense Counsel for the Eastern Region; Senior Trial Counsel MCAS Cherry Point, NC; Deputy Director of the Appellate Defense Division; Senior Trial Counsel at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island; and Staff Judge Advocate for MCRD Parris Island. He joined the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals (NMCCA) in 2019 and was appointed as a Senior Judge in 2020.

As an NMCCA judge, Lieutenant Colonel Stephens has authored 18 opinions, including 4 published opinions. In addition, his nomination as a judge for the Court of Military Commissions Review is pending. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (second gold star in lieu of third award), the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (gold star in lieu of second award). He is a graduate, with honors, from Marine Corps Command and Staff College and from Air War College.